

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 3, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 18, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 29, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 813

Introduced by Assembly Member Baca
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Cohn and Negrete McLeod)

February 18, 2005

An act to add Section 138.7 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 813, as amended, Baca. Women's heart health.

Existing law establishes the Office of Women's Health in the State Department of Health Services, and requires the office, in consultation with the interagency women's health task force established under existing law, to develop a coordinated state strategy for addressing the health-related needs of women. Existing law requires the department to place a priority on providing information to consumers, patients, and health care providers regarding women's gynecological cancers. Under existing law, this information may include, but is not limited to, educational and informational materials, and public service announcements and advertisements. Existing law provides that the department's duties in this regard are to be performed contingent upon the department receiving funds appropriated for this purpose.

This bill would give the department similar authority and would impose similar requirements regarding the provision of information regarding heart health risks for women.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:
- 3 (a) Heart disease is the number one killer of women, and
4 stroke is the number three killer of women.
- 5 (b) Every year since 1984, cardiovascular disease has claimed
6 the lives of more women than men.
- 7 (c) One in four women have some form of cardiovascular
8 disease, and one in three women will die from heart disease.
- 9 (d) Cardiovascular disease claims more women's lives than
10 the next seven causes of death combined—about 500,000
11 women's lives a year—about one death every minute.
- 12 (e) Heart disease and stroke are striking women at a younger
13 age, and the risk increases in women after menopause.
- 14 (f) Risk factors for heart disease include high blood pressure,
15 high cholesterol, diabetes, smoking, being overweight, being
16 physically inactive, age (especially after age 50), and having a
17 family history of early heart disease.
- 18 (g) Only 13 percent of women report that heart disease and
19 stroke are their greatest health risk.
- 20 (h) The Legislature commends the existing educational efforts
21 of the State Department of Health Services and the American
22 Heart Association in educating the public on women's
23 cardiovascular disease, and encourages further outreach efforts.
- 24 SEC. 2. Section 138.7 is added to the Health and Safety
25 Code, to read:
- 26 138.7. (a) The State Department of Health Services shall
27 place priority on providing information to consumers, patients,
28 and health care providers regarding women's heart health risks,
29 including, signs and symptoms, risk factors, the importance of
30 prevention, early detection through appropriate diagnostic
31 testing, and treatment options.
- 32 (b) The information may include, but is not limited to, the
33 following elements:
- 34 (1) Educational and informational materials in print, audio,
35 video, electronic, or other media.

1 (2) Public service announcements and advertisements.

2 (c) The department may produce or contract with others to
3 develop the materials described in this section as the director
4 deems appropriate, or may survey available publications from the
5 American Heart Association and other appropriate resources, and
6 may collect and formulate a distribution plan and disseminate
7 these publications according to the plan. These materials may be
8 made available to the public free of charge and may include
9 distribution through the Medical Board of California, as well as
10 through other sources according to the distribution plan.

11 (d) In exercising the powers under this section, the office shall
12 consult with appropriate health care professionals and providers,
13 consumers, and patients, or organizations representing them.

14 ~~(e) The department may appoint a Women's Heart Disease~~
15 ~~Information Advisory Council, which may include representation~~
16 ~~from health care professionals and providers, consumers,~~
17 ~~patients, voluntary health organizations committed to the~~
18 ~~research into and prevention of cardiovascular diseases, and other~~
19 ~~appropriate interests, and shall include at least one physician.~~
20 ~~Members of the council shall receive no compensation for their~~
21 ~~services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses~~
22 ~~incurred in the performance of their duties.~~

23 *(e) The Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force*
24 *authorized under Section 104141 and the Women's Health*
25 *Council shall work together to educate the public and health*
26 *care providers on women's cardiovascular disease and its*
27 *prevention under this section.*

28 (f) The department's duties pursuant to this section are
29 contingent upon the department receiving funds appropriated for
30 this purpose.

31 (g) The department may adopt any regulations necessary and
32 appropriate for the implementation of this section.